

## Under Construction

We are in the process of building a new agency website, which should be up later this year, to conform with CMS guidelines. Our new website will



allow you easier access to information with a new layout and several new features:

- Driving directions to our office.
- A 'Contact Us' page with phone numbers and email addresses.
- A link to the other state agencies and reciprocal systems.

## At the Capitol

During the spring legislative session over thirty-two bills affecting the State Employees' Retirement System were introduced, but the only legislation that passed allows the State to sell \$10 billion in general obligation bonds.

This income will help meet the funding requirements of the five state-funded retirement systems for part of fiscal year '03 and all of fiscal year '04.

The remaining money will be distributed to each retirement fund to reduce their unfunded liabilities. The earnings from this money will decrease the state's required pension contributions in the coming years.

The General Assembly returns in November for two weeks for the fall veto session. We will report on any legislation that passes affecting SERS in a future issue of the Informer.

## Insurance Issues

The fall recertification process for dependents enrolled as a full-time college student will begin in October. You will receive a Dependent Coverage Certification Statement (CMS 138) by the end of September.

Members with dependents in the Handicapped or Other category will also be sent CMS 138. This should be completed, signed and returned before the end of October.

This year, some dependent's enrollment will be verified through the National Student Clearinghouse. For those not being verified, proof of full-time enrollment has to be submitted on college letterhead.

***Form CMS 138 and any required documentation MUST be sent to SERS by the end of October or your student's dependent coverage will terminate on November 1, 2003.***

## Keep Your Beneficiaries & Mailing Address Current

Recently, we received several SERS beneficiary forms (not life insurance) with different addresses than what is in the member's record. A new address on a SERS beneficiary form doesn't automatically update your address with us. If you change your address, you need to notify us.

You may change your SERS beneficiaries at any time by completing and filing a new Nomination of Beneficiaries form with SERS.

***Remember that your SERS beneficiaries are separate from your Group Life Insurance and Deferred Compensation beneficiaries.*** It is your responsibility to keep your designations up-to-date. If you have questions about beneficiaries, call us at 217-785-6963.

In August 2003, Minnesota Life, the life insurance carrier for the State of Illinois, mass-mailed letters and beneficiary forms to complete and return to them.

This process will allow Minnesota Life to centralize beneficiary information for all State employees and retirees, and to expedite the disbursement process when a death occurs.

Your annual SERS benefit statement will continue to display your state life beneficiaries for your review. Please complete the form and mail to Minnesota Life, P. O. Box 2327, Springfield, IL 62705.

2101 S. Veterans Parkway  
P. O. Box 19255  
Springfield, IL 62794-9255

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***Circle the 2004 MRR Workshop That You Would Like to Attend.***

|         |                   |         |                     |
|---------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Jan. 22 | Normal (33)       | Jul. 15 | Carbondale (06)     |
| Feb. 19 | Paris (20)        | Jul. 22 | Peoria (12)         |
| Feb. 24 | Chicago (02)      | Jul. 29 | Chicago (02)        |
| Mar. 4  | Jacksonville (39) | Aug. 5  | Springfield (01)    |
| Mar. 11 | Rock Falls (66)   | Aug. 19 | Galesburg (23)      |
| Mar. 25 | Springfield (01)  | Aug. 26 | Rockford (90)       |
| Mar. 31 | Chicago (02)      | Sep. 2  | Schaumburg (77)     |
| Apr. 1  | Collinsville (15) | Sep. 9  | Effingham (67)      |
| Apr. 8  | Joliet (47)       | Sep. 21 | Macomb (29)         |
| Apr. 15 | Mt. Vernon (32)   | Sep. 30 | Rockford (90)       |
| Apr. 29 | Moline (46)       | Oct. 12 | Taylorville (24)    |
| May 6   | Lincoln (19)      | Oct. 21 | Rend Lake (21)      |
| May 13  | Utica (30)        | Oct. 27 | Fairview Hgts. (18) |
| May 20  | Marion (07)       | Nov. 9  | Chicago (02)        |
| May 27  | Bourbonnais (25)  | Nov. 16 | Peoria (13)         |
| Jun. 3  | Urbana (34)       | Dec. 2  | Springfield (01)    |
| Jun. 17 | Rend Lake (21)    | Dec. 9  | Tinley Park (95)    |
| Jun. 30 | Normal (33)       | Dec. 14 | Joliet (47)         |
| Jul. 1  | Springfield (01)  |         |                     |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Are You Bringing a Guest? \_\_\_\_\_

***Return This Form To:***

State Retirement Systems, Field Services Division  
2101 S. Veterans Parkway  
P. O. Box 19255  
Springfield, IL 62794-9255  
217-785-6979

*Your career has ended and the golden years stretch out ahead. Now what? The reality is that many retirees could be retired for as many years as they were in the workforce.*

*To help make these years more meaningful and rewarding, SRS offers the Myths and Realities of Retirement workshop to retirees, survivors, disability benefit recipients and their guests.*

*This free, one-day workshop examines financial scams, the effects of inflation, estate planning, group insurance benefits, and health & leisure.*

*If you would like to attend an MRR workshop, complete the application and return it to us. After you are registered, we will confirm your enrollment by letting you know the exact workshop location.*

